

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02919 240951Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 ACDA-10 OMB-01 IO-13

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /106 W

-----242014Z 072741 /44

R 231144Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2602

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 654

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 2919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, AO, CU, UR

SUBJ: IVORY COAST EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ZAIRE

CONFLICT, CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ VISITS

BEGIN SUMMARY: SEVERAL SIGNED ARTICLES IN GOIC-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER IN RECENT DAYS HAVE COMMENTED ON ZAIRE CONFLICT AND VISITS OF CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ TO AFRICA. GIST OF ARTICLES IS THAT THESE INTERRELATED EVENTS REPRESENTS SOVIET EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE AND EXPAND ITS PENETRATION OF AFRICA IN FACE OF IMMOBILITY OF EUROPE AND HESITATION OF AMERICA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MARCH 19-20 EDITION OF FRATERNITE MATIN ARTICLE SIGNED BY GAOUSSOU KAMISSOKO NOTES THAT 6000 KATANGA GENDARMES (SIC) ARE THREATENING TO OCCUPY SHABA PROVINCE AT SAME TIME THAT FIDEL CASTRO IS ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRONTLINE COUNTRIES, A VISIT PRECEDING BY ONLY SEVERAL DAYS THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNÝ WHO IS COMING TO "CELEBRATE THE SOVIET BREAKTHROUGH" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO CONSIDER WAYS OF CONSOLIDATING USSR POSITION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 02919 240951Z

AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WEST. ARTICLE NOTES THAT CONFLICT IN ZAIRE OPPOSES TWO INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES, ZAIRE AND ANGOLA AT TIME WHEN ONE HOPED FOR BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOLLOWING THE MEETING BETWEEN NETO AND MOBUTU IN BRAZZAVILLE LAST YEAR. AT THAT MEETING AN ACCORD WAS STRUCK WHEREBY ZAIRE WOULD CEASE SUPPORT FOR UNITA AND FNLA IN RETURN FOR ANGOLA'S

DEMOBILIZATION AND DISARMING OF THE 6000 EX-KATANGA GERDARMES. ARTICLE COMMENTS THAT ALTHOUGH FNLA AND UNITA HAVE CEASED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ZAIRE THE SHABA CONFLICT INDICATES ANGOLA HAS NOT KEPT ITS SIDE OF THE BARGAIN. ARTICLE NOTES THE RICHES OF SHABA PROVINCE AND THE DIFFICULTIES A PROLONGED CONFLICT WOULD CAUSE ZAIRE. IT CONCLUDES BY ASKING WHETHER IN THE WAKE OF ANGOLA AND IN THE EXPECTATION OF AN EXPLOSION OF THE "TIME -BOMB" WHICH IS RHODESIA, AFRICA COULD NOT BE SPARED ANOTHER CONFLICT.

2. MARCH 19-20 EDITION OF NEWSPAPER CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE SIGNED BY EDITOR AUGUSTE MIREMONT ENTITLED "AFRICA -- SICK BECAUSE OF ITS OWN LEADERS." ARTICLE NOTES "CARROUSEL" OF AFRICA UNDERTAKEN RECENTLY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS POWERS -- ENGLISH, AMERICAN, CUBANS AND RUSSIANS. THESE TRIPS, SOME OF THEM ENSHROUDED IN MYSTERY SUCH AS THAT OF CASTRO, ARE NOT A GOOD OMEN FOR AFRICA. THEY CARRY THE SMELL OF CADAVERS SO APPRECIATED BY VULTURES ON THE PROWL WAITING TO DIVIDE THE REMAINS. THE FACT THAT AFRICA IS SICK (SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE HORN, WEST AFRICA) AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE PROLIFERATION OF ARMED CONFLICTS SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US. THE BLAME FOR THIS FALLS ON CERTAIN OF AFRICA'S OWN LEADERS WHO, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF SHOWING THEIR INDEPENDENCE OF FORMER COLONIZERS, THROW THEMSELVES INTO THE ARMS OF ANOTHER IMPERIALISM, INSTEAD OF SEEKING A TRUE NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT. ALL AFRICANS HAVE THE SAME PROBLEMS OF POVERTY, HEALTH, EDUCATION, ETC. AND THE SAME NEED TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 02919 240951Z

WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THEM. INSTEAD THERE IS DISTRUST WHICH IS THE TRUE CAUSE OF THE SICKNESS OF THE CONTINENT, DISTRUST WHICH CREATES AREAS OF TENSION AND GENETRATES PUBLIC QUARRELS WHICH MAKE AFRICANS LOOK RIDICULOUS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SERVING AS PAWNS OF IMPERIALISM SEEKING TO CREATE ZONES OF INFLUENCE. UNTIL IT REALIZES THE NEED FOR BROTHERHOOD AND TRUST AFRICA WILL REMAIN SICK, AND THE OAU WILL BE OF NO USE EXCEPT TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER DISTRUST AND DISUNITY AS WE SAW RECENTLY AT LOME.

3. IN MARCH 22 ARTICLE ENTITLED "TOWARD A SOVIET SOLUTION?", GAOUSSOU KAMISSOKO REFERS TO THE VISIT OF PODGORNY AS SYMBOLIZING FOR MANY THE SOVIET PREEMINENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, A PREEMINENCE WHICH THE SOVIETS, AIDED BY THE CUBANS, WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP AND EXTEND IN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ZONES OF THE WORLD. ARTICLE NOTES THAT SOVIET DIPLOMACY HAS BECOME MUCH MORE REFINED SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF SENDING SNOWPLOWS TO TROPICAL COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSONS FROM

THE AMERICANS RETREAT FROM VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AND UNDER-
STAND THAT SUPPORTING WARS OF LIBERATION REPRESENTS THE
BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR GAINING PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OVER
THE SUPPLY ROUTES OF PETROLEUM FOR THE WEST. AMERICA
AND EUROPE REMAINED DEAF TO THE APPEALS OF NATIONAL
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, SUPPORTING INSTEAD COLONIAL DIC-
TATORSHIPS SUCH AS PORTUGAL AND SUPPLYING ARMS TO RACIST
REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ARTICLE ASKS WHETHER SOVIETS
WILL MAKE FURTHER ADVANCES ON THE CHESSBOARD OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA IN THE FACE OF EUROPEAN IMMOBILITY AND THE HESI-
TATION OF AMERICA, WHERE PUBLIC OPINION IS HOSTILE TO ANY
FOREIGN INTERVENTION. ARTICLE NOTES THAT MOSCOW IS MOVING
PRUDENTLY AND RESPONDS TO DENUNCIATIONS OF SOVIET HEGEMONY
BY ASSERTING THEY ARE ONLY SUPPORTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACISM. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY
WONDERING WHETHER, WITH THE PROMISE OF ARMS AND AID, THE
SOVIETS MIGHT ACHIEVE THE UNIFICATION OF THE NATIONALISTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ABIDJA 02919 240951Z

IN ZIMBABWE, THUS MOVING TOWARD A "SOVIET SOLUTION" IN
THE AREA, PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER.
STEARNS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INVASIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABIDJA02919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770101-0737
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770333/aaaabcav.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1afaab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3029863
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORY COAST EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ZAIRE CONFLICT, CASTRO AND PODGORNYY VISITS BEGIN SUMMARY: SEVERAL SIGNED ARTICLES IN GOIC-CON
TAGS: PFOR, IV, AO, CU, UR, (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL), (PODGORNYY, NIKOLAY VIKTOROVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1afaab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009